CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

ITEM # 19

JULY 2003 AGENDA

SUBJECT		
Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program: Including, but not limited to, approving an Amendment to the 2002-2004 STAR Contract with Educational Testing Services (ETS).	X	ACTION
	X	INFORMATION
		PUBLIC HEARING

Recommendation:

Approve the amendment of the 2002-2004 contract with ETS for a total of $1,644,878, which will cover the costs of meeting the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements to develop core knowledge tests for science.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

At the June 2002 meeting, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved the 2002-2004 STAR contract and Scope of Work for ETS. At the April 2003 meeting, the SBE approved additions to the State's NCLB Consolidated State Application, which included a timeline for the development of the core knowledge tests for science.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

The NCLB Act of 2001 requires that, beginning in 2007, each state administer three standards-based science tests every year, one within each of the following grade spans: 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12. These tests will be designed as core knowledge assessments, measuring fundamental science concepts and skills that all students in the designated grades should know and be able to do.

ETS, as part of the 2003 Scope of Work, is field-testing a grade-5 science test in spring 2003 and will implement grade-5 science operational testing in spring 2004. This meets the NCLB requirement to administer a test in the 3-5 grade span. To fully comply with NCLB requirements, tests must also be developed and administered in the 6-9 and 10-12 grade spans.

The California Department of Education (CDE) will request from the Department of Finance (DOF) funding from NCLB Title VI to support the costs necessary for this amendment.

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

Request made to the DOF for $1,644,878 from the NCLB Title VI funds.

Attachment(s)

Attachment1: ETS Recommendations No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Middle School and High School Core Knowledge Science Tests (Pages 1–3)

Attachment 2: STAR Middle School and High School Core Knowledge Science Tests Costs (Page 1-1)

ETS Recommendations
No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
Middle School and High School Core Knowledge Science Tests

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 requires that, beginning in 2007, each state administer three standards-based science tests every year, one within each of the following grade spans: 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12. These tests will be designed as core knowledge assessments, measuring fundamental science concepts and skills that all students in the designated grades should know and be able to do.

Educational Testing Service, as part of the 2003 Scope of Work, is field-testing a grade 5-science test in spring 2003 and will implement grade 5-science operational testing in spring 2004. This document contains recommendations for developing and implementing core knowledge science tests at the middle and high school levels. Also included is an updated schedule containing minor revisions to the original plan developed by CDE in April 2003.

The sections of this document are outlined below:

A. General Recommendations for Test Development
B. Revised Proposed Test Development Schedule

A. General recommendations for developing the middle school and high school core knowledge science tests.

- Develop 60-item blueprints that represent designated core knowledge standards across all four disciplines, including (10%) I & E standards. (All other science tests utilize 60-item blueprints and include 10% I&E items.)

- For the middle school test (like grade 5), distribute the items across physical, life, and earth sciences.

- For the high school test (like the subject-specific California Standards Tests), distribute the items across biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics.

- Create new items for both core knowledge tests so that items are developed with appropriate levels of difficulty (rather than using existing subject-specific CST items).

- Do not use the same items for the high school core knowledge test as are used for the subject-specific and integrated CSTs, for two reasons: 1) the field test populations are different for the tests (students within a grade level versus students in any grade who are completing a specific science course); 2) released items will need to have the correct p-values for the tested populations.

- In the spring 2005 administration, use the embedded field test model as administered in 2003 for grade 5. For each designated grade, create 20 versions, 20 items each (10 items in common across versions).

- Beginning with 2006, embed 6 field test items in each operational form.

- Immediately begin the process of adding new CRP members with middle school or high school science expertise recognizing that there will be many additional items to review each year.

B. Revised proposed schedule

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
Middle School and High School Test Development

Date	Responsibility	Task
April 2003	ETS	Prepares scope of work and cost proposal for development and implementation of tests
May 2003	SBE	Approves scope of work and cost proposal
June 2003	CDE	Secures funding and Department of Finance approval for test development and program implementation
JUNE/JULY 2003	CDE/SBE	Identifies and selects members for CRP with middle school science expertise, and new members to replace current inactive members, if any
September/ October 2003	ETS	Prepares draft discussion points and approaches to the blueprints for presentation to CRP
October 2003	CDE	Reviews and approves discussion points and approaches to the blueprints for discussion at November CRP meeting
November 13 – 16, 2003	CRP	Recommends grade levels for test administration and preliminary recommendations for blueprints (this meeting may also include item review of grade 5 or subject-specific 2005 FT items)
January 2003	SBE	Approves general content and grade levels for test administration
January 30 – Feb. 1, 2004	CRP	Makes final recommendations for blueprints (this meeting will also include item review of grade 5 or subject-specific 2005 FT items)
March 2004	SBE	Adopts blueprints
March– June 2004	ETS	Develops test items
April and July 2004	CRP	Reviews items for accuracy and alignment to standards
August 2004	SPAR Panel	Reviews items for issues of privacy
August 2004	ETS	Builds field test versions for embedding in STAR 2005 grade level test books
September 2004	CDE	Reviews lasers for 2004 administration
October – November 2004	ETS	Prints 2004 STAR test books, including field test items in grade level books

Spring 2005	ETS	Administers field test items at designated grades
January – June 2005	ETS	Continue development of test items
January – July 2005	CRP	Reviews items for accuracy and alignment to standards
August 2005	SPAR Panel	Reviews items for issues of privacy
August 2005	ETS	Builds operational forms including field test items
Spring 2006	STAR Contractor	Administers operational forms including field test items
May/June 2006	STAR Contractor	Continue development of test items
July 2006	CRP	Reviews items for accuracy and alignment to standards
August 2006	SPAR Panel	Reviews items for issues of privacy
August 2006	CDE	Reports tests results of Spring 2006 Administration
August 2006	STAR Contractor	Completes technical manual
September 2006	STAR Contractor	Organizes and supervises standard setting following operational administration and recommends performance levels to SBE/CDE
November 2006	SBE	Approves performance levels
November-December 2006	SBE	Holds public hearings on approved performance levels
January 2006	SBE	Adopts performance levels
January 2007	CDE	Performance levels applied retroactively and results sent to districts
Spring 2007	STAR Contractor	Second operational test administered
August 2007	CDE	Results reported using adopted performance levels
August 2007	CDE	Results used to calculate new base science API

STAR Middle School and High School Core Knowledge Science Tests Costs

Year	Scope of Work Designation	Description	Cost
2003-2004	A1	Blueprint development	$ 52,000
	A2	Development of items	$ 268,800
	A3	Review panels	$ 70,000
	Subtotal:		**$ 390,800**
2004-2005	A10	Forms construction	$ 16,348
	A14	Calibration, scaling, and equating	$ 64,412
	C	Test materials production	$ 345,318
	D, E, F, G	Delivery and collection of materials; test processing, scoring, and analysis; reporting	$ 828,000
	Subtotal:		**$ 1,254,078**
Total Estimated Cost			***$1,644,878***